Post lying vacant in different departments

1292. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

(a) whether it is a fact that many top posts in different Departments of her Ministry are lying vacant and are looked after by persons on *ad hoc* basis;

(b) the details of Groups 'A' posts with designations lying vacant in various Departments of her Ministry;

(c) the date from which each post is lying vacant; and

(d) the reasons for not filling the posts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Circulation of newspapers and magazines

1293. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 340 newspapers and magazines, out of 33170 published in India, got their circulation audited and amongst daily newspapers only 305 got their circulation audited while their number was 3090 during the last year;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the action being taken in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for non-auditing of the circulation of most of the newspapers and magazines?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Circulation verification for Newpapers and periodicals registered with Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) is not mandatory. However, it is necessary for those Newspapers and periodicals which are on Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity's (DAVP)'s, panel for release of Government Advertisements. Such verification could be done by RNI, Audit Bureau of Circulation or a Chartered Accountant (for certain categories) in terms of the advertising policy. RNI also verifies circulation claims of newspapers for

which request is made by the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Lok Sabha Secretariat, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, and States.

Out of 51960 papers registered with RNI during the calender year 2001, 5638 were daily Newspapers. During the year 2001 RNI verified the circulation claim of 1679 Newspapers, including periodicals, in which 642 were daily Newspapers.

Position of DTH programme

1294. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of Direct to Home (DTH) programme launched by Government in haste without giving an opportunity to Parliament or the concerned Standing Committee to consider it;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reconsider the guidelines originally designed for the programme; and

(c) how long it is goving to take the project through?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Government took the decision to start DTH service in the country in November, 2000, after the Group of Ministers had deliberated and considered all the issues connected thereto at length. Detailed Guidelines for starting DTH service were issued in March 2001. Two applications have been received seeking permission to start DTH service in the country.

(b) there is no proposals to review these guidelines.

(c) It is not possible to indicate when will a DTH service become operational in the country. However, as per the DTH guidelines the licensee is required to establish and complete the installation of the uplink earth station in India including monitoring facility etc. and commissionn the DTH platform, within twelve months from the date of issue of the SACFA clearance by the WPC, after obtaining wireless operational licence.

Industry status to film industry

1295. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has accorded the status of industry to the film